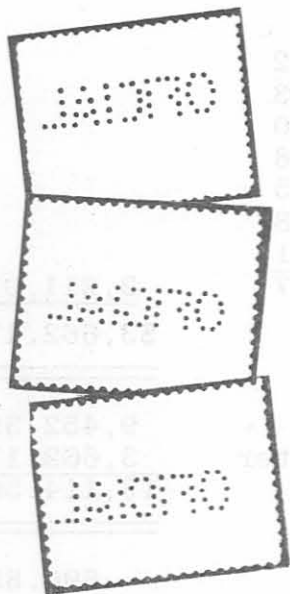


# THE OFFICIAL PERFIN OF GUATEMALA



According to the Scott catalog, the Guatemalan post office perforated the word OFICIAL into limited quantities of Guatemala 114-123, 132, 141-149, 151-153, 158, 202, 210-229, and RA2. Other stamps were handstamped with the word OFICIAL during the same period (1912-26).

Scott says the perforating was done "in blocks of four stamps at a time and was of two types." Both the perforating and the handstamping were done at the post office at Guatemala City and use of the stamps was limited to that city.

Scott, of course, leaves some unanswered questions: what were the two types, and how many stamps constitute "limited quantities?"

Our foreign catalog editor, Bob Schwerdt, has come up with the three illustrations at left--showing three "types" of the OFICIAL perfin. The differences lay in the C of the word--whether it has 7, 8, or 9 holes.

The existence of these three types poses still more questions. Is this a case of a perforator with a nine-hole C being progressively damaged? Were there three different perforators, each with a different number of pins in the C as a control measure?

Can anyone help solve the puzzle?